



THE WORLD'S BEST LUXURY CRUISE SHIPS

We're delighted to resume *Signature Luxury Travel & Style's* Luxury Cruise Awards in 2022, our chance to celebrate the ocean, river, expedition, family and tall-ship cruise lines that go above and beyond when it comes to onboard and onshore services, facilities and experiences. Our fourth annual awards – now one of the most recognised in Australia's rapidly growing luxury cruising industry – spotlights the world's finest cruise lines, ships and operators, offering guests an unrivalled experience.

While the industry has suffered over the past two years, the rebound has been remarkable, with luxury lines reporting unprecedented bookings and statistics showing that by 2026, 1.4 million Australians will be exploring the world by ship every year. With this popularity in mind, we called upon the knowledge of 16 cruising experts and travel advisors to judge our annual cruise awards, affording cruise lines points across six key categories: suites, service, dining, wellness, itineraries and shore excursions. The results? A worthy collection of finalists and winners who set the bar for the future of cruising.



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RIVER CRUISES

REST OF THE WORLD

Winners

1.

Aqua Expeditions

Aqua takes out top spot with judges raving about its service, dining and shore excursions.

2.

Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection

Suites that rival the world's best hotel rooms and standout entertainment and wellness place Uniworld high.

3.

Scenic (Mekong)

Australian-owned Scenic impressed judges with its cruise offerings along the Mekong River in Asia.

Finalists

Belmond, Delfin Amazon Cruises, Sanctuary Retreats, The Strand Cruise

Best suites

1. Uniworld
2. Viking
3. Avalon Waterways

Best service

1. Aqua
2. Belmond
3. Uniworld

Best dining

1. Aqua
2. Uniworld
3. Scenic

Best wellness

1. Uniworld
2. Aqua
3. Scenic

Best itineraries

1. Aqua
2. Uniworld
3. Scenic

Best shore tours

1. Aqua
2. Uniworld
3. Belmond

EXPEDITION SHIPS

LUXURY

Winners

1.

Silversea Expeditions

Once again, Silversea proves unbeatable, taking out top honours in every category bar one.

2.

Seabourn

Judges rate Seabourn particularly highly for its on-ship expedition offerings, from suites to service.

3.

Ponant

If you want to explore far-flung destinations in serious style, Ponant never fails to impress.

Finalists

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, True North Adventure Cruises, Quark Expeditions, Viking Expeditions, Swan Hellenic

Best Suites

1. Silversea
2. Seabourn
3. Ponant

Best Service

1. Silversea
2. Seabourn
3. Ponant

Best dining

1. Silversea
2. Seabourn
3. Ponant

Best itineraries

1. Silversea
2. Viking
3. Ponant

Best shore tours

1. Silversea
2. Ponant
3. Viking

Best expedition team

1. Ponant
2. Quark
3. Silversea



MEET THE JUDGES

We called upon the knowledge of 16 expert cruise travel advisors to judge our annual cruise awards. Each is an expert in their field.

PHIL SMETHURST

Bicton Travel

Phil is co-founder and director of Perth's esteemed Bicton Travel. Now in its 24th year, Bicton Travel is consistently recognised as one of Australia's leading cruise and luxury travel agencies.

ROBYN SINFIELD

Home Travel Company

Co-owner of Home Travel Company and CLIA Cruise Master, Robyn has more than 40 years' experience. She was recognised as the Best Mobile Cruise Consultant for Australia (CLIA 2020).

NEIL KIRBY

Travel Masters & The Travel Studio

Neil has been fully immersed in the cruise industry for more than 25 years, and is now joint managing director of Travel Masters and The Travel Studio on Queensland's Gold Coast, both proud Virtuoso agencies.

HAYLEY SEREBRO

FBI Travel

With more than 22 years of travel consultancy experience, Hayley combines her knowledge of the industry with her love of working with people as the general travel manager of FBI Travel.

ALISON DI PAOLO

Claremont Cruise & Travel Centre

Cruising is the holiday of choice for luxury travel specialist Alison, who has enjoyed 45 years in the industry. She has specialised in luxury cruising for 25 years, helping her clients enjoy the finer things in life.

JEAN SUMMERS-REEVES

Clean Cruising

Jean is a recognised CLIA Cruise Master, and the director of product and marketing at Clean Cruising. Her love of cruising has seen her travel on over 35 ships, with her favourites being expedition voyages.

VICKI WILLIAMSON

MTA

Vicki has 40 years' experience in the travel industry and 16 years specialising in cruising. A water-lover by nature, she says cruising is the best way to travel, allowing people to traverse the globe in comfort, style and ease.

PENNY SPENCER

Spencer Travel

A passion for corporate travel and high-end leisure has underpinned Penny's 30 years in the travel industry. She has received numerous awards, including being a finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards.

PHIL HOFFMANN AM

Phil Hoffmann Travel

Phil was inducted into the CLIA Hall of Fame in 2017 for his outstanding contribution to the Australian cruise industry. Now managing director and founder of Phil Hoffmann Travel, he is a passionate traveller.

JEFF LECKEY

House of Travel Ltd

As general manager of cruise for the House of Travel Group, Jeff has over 40 years of travel consultancy experience. Jeff loves the innovation, unique itineraries and style offered by leading cruise lines.

ELIZABETH CLARK

The Cruise Centre

During her 35 years in the travel industry, Elizabeth has shared her expertise while developing a focus on cruising, from expedition to luxury. The Cruise Centre is a member of the Virtuoso network.

DAVID BRANDON

Savenio

David is managing director of Savenio, an award-winning Virtuoso agency with more than 40 independent travel designers. He has more than 40 years' experience as a travel consultant.

MELINDA GREGOR

Gregor & Lewis Bespoke Travel

Melinda has a passion for cruising – in particular, luxury and small-ship experiences – fostered over more than 35 years in the industry. She is recognised by CLIA as a Master Cruise Consultant.

MANDY DWYER

Main Beach Travel

Mandy is a qualified Cruise Master with more than 45 years of industry experience. She has spent the past 23 years running her own agency, Main Beach Travel, on the Gold Coast.

ANTHONY GOLDMAN

Goldman Travel Group

Anthony is the joint managing director of Goldman Travel Group. As third-generation professionals, the Goldmans are at the forefront of travel advisory in Australia.

NATALIE CHERRY

Noosa Cruise and Travel and Helloworld

Founder of Noosa Cruise and Travel since 2005, Natalie has specialised in cruising for 17 years. She was the first Australian guest on *Le Commandant Charcot*.